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BANK ROBBER SENTENCED TO NINE YEARS

PHILADELPHIA - Steven Culbertson, 52, of Philadelphia, was sentenced yesterday to 108 months in prison for a bank robbery he committed in the summer of 2010, announced United States Attorney Zane David Memeger. On June 22, 2010, Culbertson robbed the Washington Savings Bank, at 8729 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA, telling bank employees that he wished to make a withdrawal. A victim bank teller handed Culbertson a withdrawal slip on which Culbertson wrote "I want all of the money." Culbertson left the bank with \$2,140.

The Philadelphia Police Department's K-9 unit and officers tracked down Culbertson, who fit the description of the robber. Police found him inside a fenced area, approximately three blocks from the bank and, when they searched him, found \$2,040 in cash in Culbertson's socks. Culbertson pleaded guilty on October 12, 2010.

U.S. District Court Judge J. Curtis Joyner granted the government's request for an upward variance, based in part on the defendant's history of violent criminal activity. The defendant's criminal history includes: (1) a ten year sentence for robbery in 1987 in Atlantic City, New Jersey, in which the defendant put a cab driver in a choke hold and threatened to shoot him with a handgun, (2) a 1995 conviction and sentence of 18 months in prison for possession of a knife, (3) a 1996 conviction for constructive possession of a .25 caliber handgun, and (4) three separate counts of bank robbery, on October 19, 1996, November 15, 1996, and November 25, 1996, in the Atlantic City, NJ area. During all three bank robberies, the defendant demanded money and threatened to shoot the tellers.

In addition to the prison term, Judge Joyner ordered Culbertson to pay a fine in the amount of \$1,000, restitution to Washington Savings Bank of \$100, a special assessment of \$100, and to complete three years of supervised release.

The case was investigated by the Philadelphia Police Department and the FBI and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Anthony J. Wzorek.

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